

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 April 2005 (28.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/037819 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07D 317/26**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2004/011343

(22) International Filing Date: 7 October 2004 (07.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
03078130.6 7 October 2003 (07.10.2003) EP

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF (S)-GLYCERALDEHYDE ACETONIDE

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for the preparation of (S)-glyceraldehyde acetonide in aqueous solution from 3,4-O-isopropylidene-L-threonic acid or a salt thereof in aqueous solution, and hypochlorite in aqueous solution wherein the aqueous hypochlorite solution has a pH > 7.5 and wherein during addition of at least 0.1 molar equivalents of hypochlorite based on the amount of 3,4-O-isopropylidene-L-threonic acid, an acid solution is not simultaneously added. The invention also relates to a process according to the invention, wherein 3,4-O-isopropylidene-L-threonic acid or a salt thereof is prepared from 5,6-O-isopropylidene-L-ascorbic acid or a salt thereof in the presence of H₂O₂ and a base in a manner known per se, wherein excess H₂O₂ is optionally removed by catalase. The invention also relates to a process according to the invention, wherein 5,6-O-isopropylidene-L-ascorbic acid or a salt thereof is prepared by reacting L-ascorbic acid or a salt thereof with an acetonide forming agent, preferably in the presence of an acid catalyst.